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Axon Request for Proposal for the Town of Cortland Police Department

1. Introduction

Purpose: Law enforcement agencies across Illinois have implemented Body Worn Cameras (BWCs) and In Car Camera Systems to capture police-community interactions. BWCs capture critical evidence for criminal prosecutions, help protect officers against false accusations of misconduct and provide for speedy resolution of the related investigations, increase police accountability and transparency, and help build public trust. As agencies consider implementing a BWC program, there are several factors that must be considered to ensure a successful implementation. The needs of the Cortland Police Department for Body Worn Cameras (BWCs) and In Car Camera Systems are as follows:

Background Information: Currently the Cortland Police Department utilizes Versaterm (Formerly: Visual Labs) for Body Worn Cameras (BWCs) and In Car Camera Systems. This process utilizes an Android based Application (App) with uploads occurring over WiFi and Cell Data. In addition, Visual Labs houses footage in the cloud and not on The Cortland Police Department servers making storage, retention, and transmittal to other agencies and entities a challenge.

2. Operational Requirements

Security: The BWC should capture the recorded video, upload it, and store it in a secure manner. Security and Access Control, including role-based user rights and administration abilities. Chain of custody tracking. Case and Evidence management. e-Sharing – online sharing of digital evidence with third parties (solicitor, courts, etc.) Routine software upgrades. Retention management/custom categorizations. Audit capabilities for content and users. Redaction capabilities. Third-party integration (Computer Aided Dispatch, Records Management Systems, etc.) Advanced search capabilities, including meta data search capabilities.

Illinois State Law: 50 ILCS 706/10-20 (2) “*Cameras must be capable of recording for a period of 10 hours or more, unless the officer-worn body camera was purchased and acquired by the law enforcement agency prior to July 1, 2015.*” Presently Visual Labs records from 8 to 12 hours. Axon offers over 13 hours of recording.

3. Scope of Work Environment

Durability: Axon presently offers the Axon Body 4 which has an internal battery along with a dedicated rough housing making it far superior for Law Enforcement environmental needs.

Enhanced Recording: Presently the Cortland Police Department does not have rear seat cameras when subjects are arrested. Axon offers a full car integrated system. This system will further protect the Town of Cortland and Officers from accusations of misconduct.

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Language Barriers: Officers can quickly communicate with speakers of 50+ other languages for immediate understanding during everyday interactions, directly from their Axon Body 4. Languages can be manually set or automatically detected, and the device audibly translates speech within seconds. Real-Time Translation can automatically detect languages, or officers can manually set the language if known, for translations in a fraction of the time. All translations are automatically captured in body-worn video and transcripts for full transparency, allowing human translators to review and verify accuracy.

Additional Operational Needs Available through Axon:

- i. Pre-Event testing — verifying ability to capture video (with or without audio) for a set amount of time preceding once an officer has activated the record feature on their BWC.
- ii. Audio muting functionality (during active recording)
- iii. Streaming capabilities (reliability, quality, delay)
- iv. Field of view
- v. GPS
- vi. Accuracy (location, speed)
- vii. Mapping
- viii. Officer Safety Features (fall detection, bi-directional communications, sound detection/activation)
- ix. Applications (listing and testing each apps specific capabilities)
- x. Ease of use
- xi. Pairing and Un-pairing
- xii. Impact on BWC (battery, overall performance)

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA): The Cortland Police Department has experienced a large increase in FOIA for both reports and video. Axon offers a Redaction Studio which uses AI models purpose-built for law enforcement to automate the masking of heads, license plates, and screens. These advanced models, combined with bulk processing and other custom tools, drastically cut video redaction time. The Software can:

- i. Screen, head & license plate auto-masking: Apply AI models purpose-built for law enforcement to efficiently mask screens, heads, and license plates throughout every frame they appear in the video.
- ii. Multi-video redaction initiation: Activate Redaction Assistant on up to 20 pieces of video evidence simultaneously to bulk redact screens, heads, and license plates so that videos up to 2 hours in duration are processed in 10 minutes or less.
- iii. Head masking and tracking: All unique heads are identified and followed throughout the video, even as they move in and out of frame; quickly select which to redact via a thumbnail panel.
- iv. Audio redaction acceleration via transcript: Leverage audio redact via transcript by simply searching for or clicking on any words found inside the transcript to auto-redact them throughout the entire video.